GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2694
ANSWERED ON:10.03.2003
PACKAGE FOR AGRICULTURAL SECTOR OF KERALA
A.K. PREMAJAM;N.N. KRISHNADAS

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had announced a package of Rs.1000 crore for agricultural projects in Kerala during the year 2001;

(b) if so, the number of projects initiated;

(c) the amount so far released for such of the projects including the `Technology Mission of Coconut`; and

(d) the present status of each project?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a): The Prime Minister made announcements related to setting up of a Coconut Technology Mission,procurement of copra and rubber, import of and import duty on rubber and proposal to negotiate at WTO for bringing rubber in the category of agricultural products.

(b) to (d):
(i) Government of India sanctioned a Central Sector Scheme on Technology Mission onCoconut with financial allocation of Rs.4.00 crore for the year 2001-02 and Rs.20.00 crores for the year 2002-03 to be implemented throughout the country. Under this scheme, a total of 30 projects were sanctioned by the Project Approval Committee of the Coconut Development Board for implementation in various States including Kerala. During the year 2001-02, an amount of Rs.257.053 lakhs was released under Technology Mission on Coconut for 6 projects. So far an amount of Rs.206.62 lakhs has been released during 2002-03 under the Mission. The projects are at different stages of implementation.

(ii) During the season 2000-2001 and 2001-2002, a total quantity of 85,761 MTs of milling copra was procured in Kerala at Minimum Support Price fixed for copra for the above periods.

(iii) In order to stabilize the declining prices of natural rubber, Government had made market intervention through State Trading Corporation (STC) during August, 1997 to April, 2001.During the market intervention operations, STC procured around 55,000 MT of natural rubber in four phases. The Governmentincurred an expenditure of Rs.56 crores on these operations. The present market prices are ruling approximately at Rs.4400 per quintal which is higher than the notified minimum price of the two most commonly used classes of natural rubber, i.e. RSS-4 and RSS-5.

(iv) The duty free import of natural rubber against advanced licences has been banned by the Government.

(v) A proposal has been submitted to WTO by India for bringing rubber in the category of agricultural products.